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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

NOV 05 2002

Reply to
Attn: Of ECL-117

D. R. Michel, Chairman
Natural Resources
The Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, Washington 99155

Dear Mr. Michel:

As you are aware, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not released and mailed the draft *Expanded Site Report for the Upper Columbia River* (ESI) as intended on October 30, 2002. Instead the report will be mailed by November 13, 2002. While the draft ESI is complete and over 100 copies have been printed, the delay became necessary in order for the other required elements of releasing a document for public comment to be in place. EPA's fact sheet, which summarizes the report and announces its availability for review and the particulars of the public comment period, was not finalized by October 30, 2002. Also, to initiate our 45-day public comment period we need to establish public repositories where the report and related documents can be reviewed.

I apologize for the delay in our getting the report out on schedule. If you have any concerns about this additional time, please give me a call at (206) 553-1272.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Pirzadeh, Associate Director
Environmental Cleanup Office

